

EPICAUTA DUGESI A VALID SPECIES

(COLEOPTERA: MELOIDAE)

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Some small samples of *Epicauta* from the states of Nayarit and Sinaloa in Mexico apparently represent the species described by Dugès from San Potosí as *E. vittata* and designated as *E. dugesi* by Beauregard. A single specimen, probably a female, remains from the Dugès series in the collection of the Instituto de Biología in Mexico City. Champion did not see any specimens from Mexico but decided that Dugès had *lemniscata* (Fab.) from his description. *Dugesi* has remained in synonymy with that species ever since.

The male of *dugesi* differs in several features from the species most closely related to it, *vittata* (Fab.), *lemniscata* (Fab.), *occidentalis* Werner and *vitticollis* (Haag). All of these have the pad of protarsal segment I of the male slightly heavier than in the female, covering the ventral surface of the segment and extending onto the ventral third to half of the posterior surface. In the male of *dugesi* the pad is highly developed, covering the ventral surface and extending over all of the posterior surface except for a very small area dorsally at the base, and is much different from the simple pad of the female. The succeeding protarsal segments reflect the condition of the first in all these species. Protarsal segment I is thicker, slightly broader and proportionately shorter in *dugesi* than it is in the other species; it differs radically from the first segment in *occidentalis* because that species has all the segments of the protarsi much more slender than they are in the others. A further difference is that the inner (anterior) protibial spur of the male of *dugesi* is definitely curved, while it is straight or nearly so in the others. Both sexes of *dugesi* have the head more deeply punctured than the other species, with less of an indication of a median smooth area on the front. The mark-

ings are little different from those of typical *lemniscata*; the outer two dark stripes on the elytra are perhaps a bit closer and more diffuse than would be normal for that species. The antennae are essentially as in *lemniscata*. These comparisons are based on 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Tepic, Nayarit, July 20, 1955; 1 ♀, Mazatlán, Sinaloa, July 21, 1955, and 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Los Mochis, Sinaloa, July 22, 1955, all collected at light by R. B. & J. M. Selander. The following synonymy for *dugesi* now applies:

Epicauta dugesi Beauregard

Epicauta vittata Dugès, 1886, Bull. Soc. Zool. France 11: 582 (*nomen nudum*); 1889, An. Mus. Michoacano 2: 87. Not *Epicauta vittata* (Fab.), 1775.

Epicauta dugesi Beauregard, 1889, Bull. Soc. Ent. France 14: ccxiii. (Substitute name for *vittata* Dugès nec Fabricius).

Epicauta lemniscata, Champion, 1892, Biol. Cent.-Am., Coleop. 4 (2): 415, as applied to Mexican specimens. Not *Epicauta lemniscata* (Fab.), 1801.

Another male specimen collected at light by the Selanders, at Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, June 24, 1955, is quite similar to *dugesi* in form of protibial spurs and sculpture of head but has protarsal segment I dorso-ventrally flattened and broadened, with a broad pad on this segment confined to the ventral surface. It probably represents still another in this complex of species.